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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Plans by the DDR for the Establishment of Processing Camps for Refugees from the West

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1. Representatives of the Information Office and the Ministry of State Security of the DDR have been discussing plans for the establishment of processing camps for refugees from the West. Personnel involved in these plans included:

- a. Max Mberhard Wenzig, chief advisor of the Press and Information Control Section of the Information Office. *
- b. Kowalski (fnu), who is believed to be an SSD (Staatssicherheitsdienst) member.
- c. Erich Mielke, state secretary in the Ministry of State Security of the DDR. **
- d. Ojeschin (fnu), an MGB agent.

It has been said that the plan was conceived by Wenzig.

- 2. Plans call for the establishment of processing camps at points close to the zonal border, such as Marienborn (L 53/Y 20) and Martha (L 51/H 76). Strictly speaking the installations will not be of the nature of camps, inasmuch as it is intended to accommodate the refugees in requisitioned private houses. SSD personnel, or personnel of the Information Office wearing civilian clothes, are to act as guards.
- 3. The camps are to receive refugees from the West and process them on a weekly basis for settlement in the DDR. Once in the DDR the refugees are to be given complete freedom of movement as well as good food, accommodations and treatment. In an effort to alienate them from the West and to influence them toward becoming pro-Communist they are to be subjected to considerable propaganda. There are also plans for giving suitable refugees from the West a certain amount of training in the use of firearms in order that they may be of use in event of armed conflicts.
- 4. Wenzig is well aware that at first there will probably be only a very slight influx of refugees from the West. Accordingly there are plans for launching a propaganda campaign among the personnel of the Industrial police and the British labor units with a view toward persuading some of the members of these units to flee to the Soviet Zone. Through connections of the FDGB with the Communist-

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controlled French "Confédération Générale du Travail" (CGT) similar attempts are to be made to induce French soldiers to flee to the Soviet Zone of Germany.

5. Wenzig suggested a budget of 2.5 million DM East for the processing camps at Marienborn and Wartha. This sum is to cover the expenses for the care of refugees, compensation for the requisitioned buildings the establishment of a refugee office in Magdeburg and the creation of a special department in the Information Office which is to be charged with refugee problems.

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* [] Comment. Another source has reported Wenzig as being employed by the Information Office of the DDR.

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** [] Comment. Erich Mielke is known to be Generalinspekteur der Volkspolizei and state secretary in the Ministry of State Security, 22 Normannenstrasse, Berlin-Lichtenberg.

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